

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SCSE-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 /017 W

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P 140750Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9555

UNCLAS BANGKOK 16777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, HK, TH (SIMONS, LEWIS)

SUBJ: THAI VISA FOR WP CORRESPONDENT LEWIS SIMONS

REF : A. HONG KONG 9210

B. STATE 186151

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTEL B, EMBASSY SPOKE WITH MFA AND AT THEIR REQUEST SENT NOTE VERBALE ASKING CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE EXPEDITIOUS ACTION SIMONS' APPLICATION FOR NONIMMIGRANT VISA WHICH WAS BEING MADE AT HK.

2. EMBASSY SEES NO BENEFIT TO SIMONS TRAVEL TO THAILAND ON TOURIST VISA BOTH BECAUSE STAY WOULD BE LIMITED AND MORE IMPORTANT, AS TOURIST HE WOULD BE UNABLE APPLY FOR EITHER WORK PERMIT OR PRESS CARD ISSUED ONLY BY MFA. BOTH DOCUMENTS VITAL TO ANY OPERATION ON BEHALF OF WP HERE.

3. REGUARANTOR REQUIREMENT, FOREIGN JOURNALISTS LIKE FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN NORMALLY ENTER THAILAND WITH NONIMMIGRANT VISAS AND THEN POST BOND AT TIME OF REQUEST FOR FIRST EXTENSION OF STAY. AMEMBASSY NORMALLY REQUESTS FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION FOR EXTENSIONS THROUGH NOTE VERBALE TO MFA AFTER PERSON HAS ENTERED THAILAND WITH NONIMMIGRANT VISA AND AT TIME OF FIRST EXTENSION REQUEST. SUCH NOTES OFTEN RESULT IN WAIVER OF BOND.

4. FOR WASHINGTON. SUGGEST WASHINGTON POST MAY WISH OFFER FORMAL SPONSORSHIP VIA RTG EMBASSY THERE IF NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

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5. WILL REPORT ASAP ANY RESPONSE FROM RTG ON MATTER.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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